

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, and 14-15 are amended herein. These amendments address a formalistic error in claim 1 and replace “improving” with “providing” in claims 12 and 14-15. New claims 18-22 are also introduced herein. These claims correspond to original claims 7-10 and 13, and differ only in the metal salts employed. These salts are chosen from among Fe, Cr, Co, and Mn salts. Support is found, for example, in the specification at pages 4 and 6. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 18-22 present no new issues requiring further consideration or search by the examiner, nor do they raise the issue of new matter under 35 USC §132(a). It is requested that they be entered.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §112, ¶1

Applicants amended claims 12 and 14-15 as indicated above. By so doing, applicants respectfully submit that they remove the concerns expressed by the examiner.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102 AND §103

As the original claims from which new claims 18-22 were derived was earlier rejected under 35 USC §102 and §103, applicants offer the following remarks. The specific salts recited in these claims are not mentioned at all in the prior art references cited by the examiner. Accordingly, they are both novel and unobvious over those references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants consider that the rejections of record have been obviated and respectfully solicit passage of the application to issue.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Liechty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David C. Liechty
Reg. No. 48,692

1350 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202)659-0100

DCL/lc